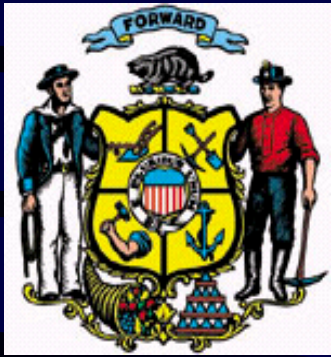
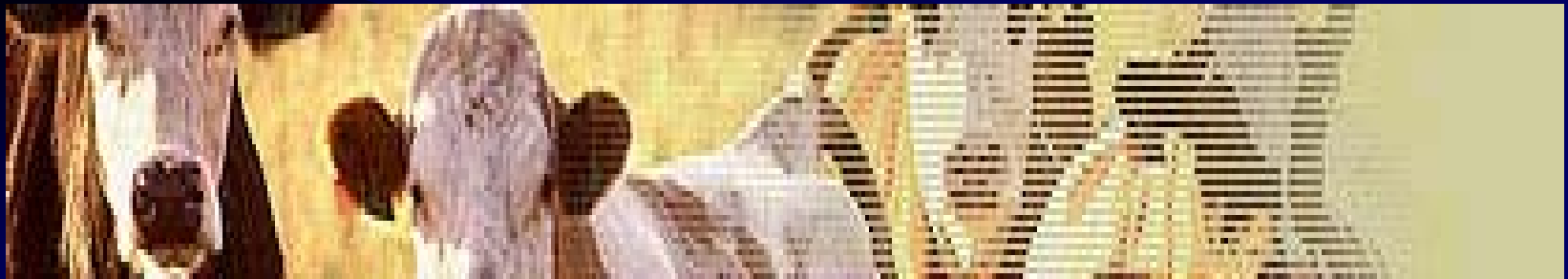


Rural Energy Issues



Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary
Department of Agriculture, Trade
and Consumer Protection



Agriculture's Impact to Economy

- Agriculture is a \$40+ Billion Industry in WI
- 1 in 5 WI Jobs are Directly Related to Agriculture
- Every 250+ Cow Dairy is a \$1+ Million Business for a Rural Community
- Each Cow Near You is Worth Over \$11,500 a Year in Community Income.

Agriculture's Impact on Energy

EXAMPLE: If all the cow manure in Wisconsin were collected and processed in manure digesters, it could produce 750 megawatts of electricity, according to a study by Penn State University. By comparison, the Point Beach nuclear power plant generates about 1,000 megawatts.

Past DATCP Involvement

- Ethanol, Biogas and Wind Development
- Distributing Grants from USDA and Others
- Farm Center and Rural Electric Power Services (REPS) Program

Ethanol, Biogas and Wind

- Ethanol Incentives:
 - \$1.9 million incentive payments in 2004
- WI Biogas Development Group
 - 220+ members involved with information exchange
 - bimonthly “roundtables”, two symposiums
- Outreach and POSOB Wind Assessment
 - Assisted Focus on Energy with workshops
 - Monitoring wind at our location for possible wind turbine / education center

Distributing/Obtaining Grants & Financial Assistance

- USDA Farm Bill
 - Last year DATCP helped get \$1.7 million for 11 biogas projects.
- Agriculture Development & Diversification (ADD) Grants
- DOA & Focus on Energy
 - Production Ag & Renewables Programs
 - Energy Payment Assistance for Low Income Rural Residence
 - Weatherization Assistance
- Utility Farmstead Rewiring Funds

Farm Center Rural Electric Power Services (REPS) Program

- Provide Guidance on Energy Management
- Conduct Outreach and Education
- Dispute Resolution
- Dealing with Disconnect Notices of Farms

Future Actions

- Dedicated R&D for Developing WI Biomass
- Effective and Fair Commercialization
- Technical and Financial Assistance
- Education & Outreach to ALL Stakeholders
- Rural Focus of Public Benefit Funds

Task Force Considerations

- Build Energy Services Infrastructure in Rural Areas
- Portion of the Public Benefits Must Go to Rural Interests Even if Benefits are Not Concentrated
- Discussion and Planning of Renewable Energy Systems Need the Involvement of ALL Stakeholders
- Funding of R&D to Develop Specific WI Biomass

DATCP in the Future

- Cooperate with the Task Force/Future Program(s) to Bring Interested Stakeholders or Concerns into Discussions
- Assist with Evaluating, Developing, and Promoting New Technologies to Benefit Agricultural Operations with Energy Issues
- Formalize DATCP Role from Ad Hoc to Programmatic Role